

SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

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SENATOR NELL SOTO EXPLORES THE STATE OF HOSPITAL CARE IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

Seismic Updates Reveal Most Hospitals don't meet State Criteria

San Bernardino – California faces the most serious nurse shortage in the nation, some hospitals may have to shut down some services or significantly reduce the capacity of their services in order to comply with a 1999 state law, according to the California Healthcare Association. Currently, California hospitals operate with a more than 15 percent Register Nurse vacancy rate.

The association also reports that some California hospitals may be forced to close if they don't meet seismic safety requirements by the end of the decade. (SB 1953)

The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reports emergency departments and trauma centers face growing financial losses. (California Healthcare Association)

It is statistics like these that prompted Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona) to host a hospital summit with administrators and health care professionals to address these serious issues in her district.

"This workshop will bring together all parties needed to answer questions about these vital issues," says Senator Soto. "Residents in the Inland Empire need to know their health care facilities are prepared and equipped to handle any disasters."

Topics to be discussed at the workshop include Emergency Room Access to Care, Staffing, Education, Training, Bioterrorism and Seismic Safety. Paul Coleman, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development will update participants on hospital seismic safety. Other panel members include George Bolton, Disaster Coordinator, Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA); Dr. Conrad Salinas, EMS Medical Director, ICEMA; and administrators from Inland Empire hospitals.

The Hospital Summit Workshop will be Friday, August 9, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Community Hospital of San Bernardino, Henderson Auditorium, 1805 North Medical Center Drive, San Bernardino.

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